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TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 139000

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: IS, US, UR, PHUM

SUBJECT: U.S. POLICY ON RAOUL WALLENBERG

REF: TEL AVIV 06190 - OFFICIAL INFORMAL 130

1. (C) IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL REQUESTING GUIDANCE ON U.S. POLICY CONCERNING WALLEMBERG AND APPROACHES TO THE SOVIETS, YOU MAY DRAW ON INFORMATION IN THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE DELIVERED BY NEA/IAI DIRECTOR WILCOX ON NOVEMBER 12, 1985 AT A WALLEMBERG COMMEMORATION BY THE AMIT WOMENS' ORGANIZATION AT GROSSINGER'S IN NEW YORK. IT RESPONDED TO PETITIONS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE SUPPORTING CONTINUED EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF WALLEMBERG. THIS STATEMENT CONTINUES TO DESCRIBE U.S. POLICY TOWARD WALLEMBERG. WE HAVE NOT RAISED WALLEMBERG WITH SOVIETS RECENTLY, NOR ARE WE PLANNING TO AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH, IN KEEPING WITH OUR STRONG AND CONTINUED INTEREST, WE WOULD PREPARED TO DO SO AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

2. BEGIN TEXT (UNCLASSIFIED)

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME, ON BEHALF OF SECRETARY OF STATE
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SHULTZ AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, TO ATTEND THIS

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PROGRAM THAT PAYS TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE HEROES OF THE MODERN ERA, RAOUL WALLENBERG.

IN THE HISTORY OF CIVILIZATION, ACTS OF INDIVIDUAL COURAGE AGAINST EVIL AND CORRUPT POWER HAVE TIME AND AGAIN BRIDGED THE CHASM BETWEEN DARK AND LIGHT, BETWEEN DEFEAT AND VICTORY, BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH. THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEEDS OF VALOR AND SACRIFICE AT HISTORY'S MOST DREADFUL MOMENTS WHICH HAVE PROVED THE POWER OF GOOD OVER EVIL.

RAOUL WALLENBERG RANKS HIGH IN THE PANTHEON OF HEROES. THESE NOBLE SPIRITS LIKE DAVID AGAINST GOLIATH AND LIKE THE MANY OTHER GALLANT MEN AND WOMEN WHO CONFRONTED HITLER'S HOLOCAUST AS WALLENBERG DID, STOOD UP FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS AND GAVE THEMSELVES FOR OTHERS. WALLENBERG PROVED, LIKE MANY LESS WELL KNOWN AND MANY UNKNOWN HEROES OF THAT ERA, THAT COURAGE, DECENCY AND HUMANITY COULD SURVIVE AND PREVAIL, EVEN AGAINST THE BARGARISM OF THAT INFAMOUS CHAPTER OF HISTORY.

WALLENBERG'S WORK IN RESCUING 100,000 JEWS FROM THE NAZI THIRD REICH ENOBLES US ALL. HIS FEATS ARE WORTHY OF HIGHEST TRIBUTE BY OURS AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. THE TRAGEDY OF WALLENBERG'S ABDUCTION BY THE RUSSIANS AND DISAPPEARANCE IN 1945, AND THE FAILURE OF ALL EFFORTS TO DISCOVER HIS FATE AND RELEASE HIM FROM SOVIET CAPTIVITY MAKE IT ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN A VIGIL FOR HIM.

PRESIDENT REAGAN, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE CONGRESS SHARE THE DEEP RESPECT AND CONCERN EXPRESSED
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HERE TODAY FOR RAOUL WALLENBERG. IN THAT SPIRIT OF HONOR AND CONCERN, I ACCEPT YOUR PETITIONS.

OUR INTEREST IN WALLENBERG'S FATE IS UNDIMINISHED, AND WE HAVE TAKEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THIS KNOWN TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

AS EVIDENCE OF OUR DEEP CONCERN, PRESIDENT REAGAN SIGNED INTO LAW IN OCTOBER 1981 A BILL CONFERRING HONORARY U.S. CITIZENSHIP UPON RAOUL WALLENBERG. HONORING WALLENBERG

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IN THIS WAY WAS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC ACT. THEN, AS NOW, IT MAKES THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WORLD AWARE OF OUR GREAT ADMIRATION FOR WALLENBERG'S COURAGE AND DEDICATION TO HUMANITY. IN ADDITION, IT UNDERScoreD OUR ABHORRENCE FOR HIS UNJUST AND ILLEGAL PUNISHMENT BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

TO EMPHASIZE FURTHER OUR DEDICATION TO RESOLVE THE MYSTERY OF WALLENBERG'S FATE, WE HAVE RAISED HIS CASE WITH THE SOVIETS THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AFTER HE WAS MADE AN HONORARY CITIZEN. TO DATE, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT RESPONDED. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT OUR EFFORTS TO RESOLVE WALLENBERG'S FATE WILL CONTINUE UNTIL THE SOVIETS PROVIDE A FULL AND SATISFACTORY CLARIFICATION OF THEIR ACTIONS IN HIS CASE.

WE HAVE ALSO PRESSED OUR EFFORTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS, SUCH AS THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE REVIEW MEETING IN MADRID AND THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. IN 1982, THE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE COMMISSION URGED THE SOVIET UNION TO MAKE "A HUMANITARIAN GESTURE WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO UNIVERSAL GOOD-FEELING, NAMELY A RENEWED SEARCH AND FULL REPORT, WHICH MAY LAY QUESTIONS TO REST; OR ELSE, IN THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE OUTCOMES, RESULT IN THE DISCOVERY OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF A MAN WHO STANDS AMONG THE HEROES OF OUR TIME." AT A

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FEBRUARY 1983 SESSION OF THE COMMISSION, THE U.S. AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF RAOUL WALLENBERG, WHOM HE TERMED "ONE OF THE GENUINE HEROES OF WORLD WAR II, AND ONE OF THE WAR'S MOST NOBLE SPIRITS." HE SUGGESTED THE U.N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARANCES BE AUTHORIZED TO "MAKE A RENEWED SEARCH AND FULL REPORT" ON THE CASE. END TEXT. WHITEHEAD

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